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ing difference is in the interparietal crest which is higher and of more uniform height and is especially higher in front. The narrow part of the cranial case is narrower and the forehead is more mesially depressed between the angular processes. Comparative measurements with two recent skulls of about the same size are as follows:

	Fossil	Recent	Recent
Length of interparietal crest	98	108	94mm
Height of interparietal crest	10–15	9–12	8–12
Height, on line of lower part of coronal suture	15	10	5
Breadth at narrow part of cranium	37	42	47
Breadth at centre of squamosals	74	75	75
Breadth at zygomata	150	150	145
Breadth at frontal angular processes	74	80	81
Breadth of narrow part of forehead	42	52	44
Length of forehead to post-nasal depression	41	48	48
Height of inion from occipital foramen.	62	63	62

JANUARY 17.

Dr. A. E. FOOTE in the chair.

Eight persons present.

A paper entitled "Some new fossils from the Niagara Shales of Western New York" by Eugene N. S. Ringueberg M. D., was presented for publication.

JANUARY 24.

Mr. GEO. W. TRYON, Jr. in the chair.

Twenty persons present.

A paper entitled "The Distribution of the Color Marks of the Mammalia" by Harrison Allen M. D., was presented for publication.

The death of Wm. L. Mactier, a member, was announced.

On the relation of Sarracenia purpurea to Sarracenia variolaris. —Prof. W. P. WILSON remarked that *Sarracenia purpurea* produces two kinds of leaves. As the young plantlet first develops itself from the seed it forms a few leaves which differ widely from those which appear on the same plant a little later. The adult stage of these first leaves is from a twentieth to a tenth smaller than the adult stage of the second or later developed leaves. Generally only from five to ten of these first-leaves are produced.

After the second leaves begin to appear, then no more of the first form are grown by the plant.

In the ordinary leaves of *S. purpurea* it is well known that the hood surmounting the hollow leaf is erect and in no wise protects or covers its opening. In *S. variolaris* this is just the opposite—here the hood, a little above and back of the opening, makes a sharp bend forward and not only covers over the whole orifice but projects beyond it on all sides nearly ½ inch.

These first or seedling leaves of *S. purpurea* resemble in form not the later and adult leaves on the same plant, but those of *S. variolaris.* The hood is not erect but arches over the hollow leaf in precisely the same manner as in the adult leaves of *S. variolaris.*

There are also two forms of leaves in *S. variolaris.* In this plant, however, the differences are not so much a matter of shape as apparently of arrested development. The first leaves are very much like the adult form on the same plant only being from ten to twenty times smaller.

But the important fact remains to be stated:—the first leaves from each of these plants are perfect miniatures of each other. It would be next to impossible for an expert to separate them, should they happen to become mixed, and to accurately say which belonged to the one or which to the other of the two species.

The production of this first set of leaves by *S. purpurea* which so very closely resemble the ordinary leaves of *S. variolaris* had led him to believe that the species *purpurea* is a retrograde development from *variolaris.*

His belief in this is, however, not wholly based on the production of the early leaves, but rests upon several other important facts.

S. variolaris is a very highly specialized plant for the purpose of catching and digesting insects. Up and down the margin of the wing and around the mouth of the protected pitcher are numerous honey glands. In the interior is the smooth surface and also the hairy ones to prevent the escape of insects which have fed up to the top of the leaf and then fallen into this treacherous opening. These special adaptations are all present in *S. purpurea,* but the honey glands seldom secrete any nectar and are sometimes even rudimentary. Again the fluid found in *S. variolaris* contains a considerable quantity of a digestive ferment which acts directly upon the entrapped insects. This is not so in the fluid excreted by the leaves of *S. purpurea.* Only a trace of this ferment could be found after the most careful chemical search for it.